

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 16264 121555Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 NSCE-00 INRE-00
SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /078 W
-----108805 121601Z /40

O 121549Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4246
INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USNATO
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USICA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 16264

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR TOON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, UR
SUBJECT: SHCHARANSKIY TRIAL: THIRD DAY OPENS

1. BROTHER ADMITTED, MOTHER NOT. JULY 12 MORNING
SESSION OF SHCHARANSKIY TRIAL WAS CLOSED UNTIL SHORTLY
AFTER NOON, WHEN LEONID WAS ESCORTED IN. SHCHARANSKIY'S
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 16264 121555Z

MOTHER WAS AGAIN REFUSED PERMISSION TO ATTEND TRIAL,
BUT TOLD THAT SHE MIGHT BE ABLE TO ATTEND TOMORROW
OR DAY AFTER. (COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST EXPLICIT
INDICATION WE HAVE HEARD THAT TRIAL MAY CONTINUE
UNTIL AT LEAST FRIDAY. STATEMENT WAS NOT OFFICIAL,
BUT DID COME FROM APPARENTLY HIGHER-RANKING SECURITY
PERSON AT SCENE WHO SPENDS MOST OF HIS TIME IN COURT-

HOUSE), LEONID HAD NOT EMERGED FROM COURTROOM BY 2:45 P.M. AND MAY NOT HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO COME OUT DURING MID-DAY BREAK.

2. STATEMENT BY SHCHARANSKIY'S MOTHER. AFTER BEING REFUSED ADMISSION TO TRIAL, IDA MILGROM READ STATEMENT CHARACTERIZING REFUSAL AS "SADISTIC TORTURE" AND A "CRUEL VIOLATION OF LAW."

3. SUPPORTERS. NUMBER OF SUPPORTERS VARIED FROM LOW OF ABOUT 15/20 TO 40. AMONG THOSE PRESENT FOR FIRST TIME WERE POLIKANOV'S WIFE AND DAUGHTER, IRINA MCCLELLAN, ISAI GOLDSHTEIN AND HIS WIFE. GOLDSHTEIN AND KATZ FAMILIES WERE THERE WITH CHILDREN.

4. ATMOSPHERE. SECURITY FORCES CONTINUED TO BEHAVE CORRECTLY AND EMBOFF OBSERVED NO HARASSMENT BY LOCAL CITIZENRY.

5. EMBOFF'S REQUEST TO ATTEND. EMBOFF ASKED SECURITY PERSONNEL AT ABOUT 9:45 A.M. WHETHER TRIAL WOULD BE OPEN. AFTER RECEIVING AFFIRMATIVE REPLY, HE ASKED TO BE ADMITTED AND WAS TOLD THAT ALL SUCH QUESTIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE ADDRESSED TO MOSCOW CITY COURT (WHERE TWICE DAILY PRESS BRIEFINGS ARE GIVEN).
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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 16264 121555Z

6. WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS. ABOUT HALF DOZEN WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS WERE PRESENT AT SCHEDULED OPENING OF SESSION. NUMBER GRADUALLY INCREASED AS MORNING WORE ON. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT FEWER ARE ATTENDING OFFICIAL PRESS BRIEFINGS, SINCE SPOKESMAN SIMPLY READS STATEMENT (WHICH APPEARS ABOUT FIVE MINUTES LATER ON TASS ENGLISH WIRE) AND REFUSES TO ANSWER QUESTIONS.

7. EMBOFF PLANS TO RETURN FOR END OF TODAY'S SESSION AND WILL REPORT OBSERVATIONS.

8. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON FIRST DAY OF TRIAL. LEONID SHCHARANSKIY CONFIRMS THAT L.A. TIMES CORRESPONDENT ROBERT TOTH WAS EXPLICITLY MENTIONED DURING MONDAY SESSION AS AGENT OF U.S. INTELLIGENCE SERVICES WITH WHOM SHCHARANSKIY HAD CRIMINAL CONNECTIONS. LEONID REPORTS THAT THERE WERE ABOUT 45 SPECTATORS AT TRIAL, LEAVING ABOUT 20 SEATS EMPTY. ADDITIONAL SEATS WERE VACANT AFTER MID-DAY RECESS BECAUSE SOME OF SPECTATORS WERE BUYING SCARCE ITEMS, SUCH AS CANDY,

AT BUFFET, MATLOCK

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